

COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
DECEMBER 4, 2009

Draft Minutes Subject to Approval at the September 17, 2010 Council Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Council Members: Steven Stubbs, Russell Patterson, Walter Jastremsky, Deseret Baker, Shannon Gower and Susan Koepnick

Ex-Officio Members: Steven Snow, Doug Clapp, Nancy Upchurch, Jean Taylor, Deedra Hunt, Cynthia Carlin (for Mary Jones) and Linda Goff

Others: Cindy Schreiner, Holly Thomas-Mowery, Val Sturm, Lori Voigt, Bill Andrew, Jerry Wilding, Reno Wolf, Jack Downey, Ron Mowery, Janica Basharat, June Flannery, and Ray Lockary

INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was called to order by Steven Stubbs and introductions were made. There was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2009 MEETING:

Walter motioned to accept the minutes as written. Deseret seconded the motion. The motion passed and the September 11, 2009 minutes were accepted as written.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Budget Fiscal Year 2010: Steven Snow said the budget for the remainder of 2010 remains very small. Steven said we have reduced operating costs, travel and council meetings to meet the budget holdbacks proposed by the Governor. Steven said there may be more budget cuts this year due to tax revenue. He said he did not know if the cuts would be across the board or for individual agencies.

Steven Snow said the Council will be receiving some funding from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to cover interpreter expenses for the remainder of fiscal year 2010 which will meet the Trustee and Benefits allocation of \$7,500. Steven said the Idaho Center for Assistive Technology will be purchasing new equipment for all of our demonstration and loan centers and will be funding the subsidy program for fiscal year 2010.

Steven said there has been a supplemental request of \$8,000 for fiscal year 2010 for additional interpreter services. Steven said he doesn't believe that the request will be approved.

Budget Year 2011: Steven said in addition to personnel and operating funds the Council will be requesting \$25,000 for interpreter services and a 1% cost of living increase in the fiscal year 2011 budget. He said the request will go to the Governor and have to be approved by the legislature when the session begins in January.

Steven encouraged the Council members to contact their local legislative representatives to discuss the funding needs of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and how the council needs funding to fulfill the responsibilities the Council's statute requires.

Legislative Update: Steven said the Council wanted to propose legislation to have captioning available on public televisions 24/7. He said because we are a state agency, we have specific protocol before presenting a bill to the Legislature for consideration. Steven said he followed protocol and presented the idea for the legislation to the Department of Financial Management for approval before submitting the idea for the bill to the Legislature. Steven said the Department of Financial Management did not recommend the bill to go forward so the Council cannot present this bill during this year's legislative session. Steven said that an outside organization such as the Idaho Association of the Deaf could present the idea to the Legislature and the Council could support it as an agency.

Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Board Appointments: Steven extended congratulations to the new board members, Jill Beck, Kathryn Montoya, Susan Koepnick and Shannon Gower. He said the Council is still waiting for the appointment of a Deaf individual.

Deaf Center of Idaho: Steven Snow said the idea for the Deaf Center of Idaho is to be a non-profit organization that would provide direct services to deaf or hard of hearing people. Steven said the application has been submitted for 501 (c) 3 status and the center is waiting for a reply.

Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind (IESDB): Steven Snow said he was appointed to the Board of IESDB. Steven Snow said the board is appointed by the Governor and that each board member represents a specific population either in the deaf/hard of hearing community or the blind/visually impaired community. Steven Snow said Aylee Schaefer is currently the Interim Administrator. He said the board is creating a strategic plan for hiring a new Superintendent which would be discussed at the December 15th meeting. Steven Snow said the board is currently laying the new ground work for policy and procedures. He said since IESDB is now a separate governmental agency, many policies such as human resources policies have to be created. He said the Board has met several times and work is progressing. Steven Snow said that the school is doing very well, moral is on the upswing and the overall trend is very positive.

Public Access Videophone: Steven Snow said the Council had an agreement to install a Public Access Videophone in our office. He said since the renovation of the building has delayed that process, he has contacted the Meridian Public Library to request installation there. He said the board for the Meridian Public Library is meeting soon and will discuss the request. Steven said he would inform the Council the decision. Steven said when the renovation of the Council's offices is complete; a public access videophone will be installed for use by the deaf and hard of hearing community.

CDHH Office Relocation Status: Steven said CDHH's offices have moved temporarily into this building. He said the new offices are being constructed now in suite A. He said there will be direct access to the offices. Steven said CDHH will move into the new office space in April or May of 2010.

Training with Magistrate Judges: Steven snow said he has been assisting in training for Magistrate Judges in Ada County. He said the training has gone very well and has educated the attendees on the various accessibility issues faced by the deaf and hard of hearing in courtroom situations. Steven Snow said he would like to conduct this training in various parts of the state when the budget allows for travel.

Post Secondary Education: Steven Snow said he participated with a special training for deaf and hard of hearing students ready to transfer to secondary education or the workplace. Steven Snow

said the students attend a work camp for a week and are taught how to write resumes, interview for a job and how to prepare for transitioning into the phase of their lives.

Mentoring Day: Steven Snow said 20 deaf students participated in National Mentoring Day sponsored by the Department of Labor. He said students were able to job shadow and discover what they could do to increase their employment opportunities. Steven Snow said next year there will probably be two tracts of training offered including one specifically for deaf and hard of hearing students.

Congress: Steven Snow said there is a bill currently in the national Legislature proposing the internet, television, video communications and media is accessible to all people who are disabled. This would include captioning on video clips, video news clips and internet videos. Steven Snow said the bill would also include speech access for those consumers who could not read the captioning. Steven Snow said this bill will be going to debate in the House of Representatives and then to the full House for a vote. Steven Snow said Idaho's Representatives Simpson and Minnick are in favor of this bill. Steven said he would keep the Council updated on the status of this bill.

Meridian Police Department Training: Steven said he submitted a proposal to conduct training with the Meridian Police Department regarding how police and other law enforcement personnel should respond when a deaf person is involved. He said the training will be scheduled for next year and he would like to use the same training for other police departments throughout the state when the budget allows.

IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF:

Bill Andrew, President of the Idaho Association of the Deaf spoke about the history and accomplishments of the Idaho Association of the Deaf. Bill said the IAD was instrumental in the creation of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Bill said the IAD supports various issues including accessibility, employment, health care, telecommunications and Civil Rights of the deaf and hard of hearing. Bill said the IAD has many goals for the future regarding issues concerning Idaho's deaf and hard of hearing population.

IDAHO COURTS ISSUES CONCERNING DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING:

Janica Bisharat, Program Manager for the Administrative Office of the Courts gave a presentation about efforts underway in Idaho courts to strengthen services for the deaf and hard of hearing. Janica said the in order to help with accessibility issues for the deaf and hard of hearing, a subcommittee was created to identify the ways the courts can improve providing those services. She said the courts have been working with an interpreter and with Steven Snow to identify how to improve services for the deaf and hard of hearing. Janica said the courts have offered training sessions for judges and other court personnel to provide education on working with individuals who are not able to communicate in English or who have disabilities, and have included in the training guidance on how to work with an interpreter. Janica said some of the issues that are being improved include updating the website to make it deaf friendly, updating creating one unified form for all court districts for use when a person needs to request an interpreter, and working on policy change to amend Idaho Court Administrative Rule 52, to make the rule specific to interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing and individuals within the community that need access to the courts. Janica said an annual report will be presented to the Legislature which will provide guidance to legislatures on language access issues including American Sign Language for the deaf.

OPEN FORUM:

Walter said deaf people should be identified to the police with a placard stating that they are deaf. Deedra said deaf and hard of hearing people should be identified on their driver's license. Steven Stubbs said this issue has been discussed before and the majority of deaf people do not want to be labeled on their driver's license. Bill Andrew said the IAD is researching the issue and will be discussing whether they would support a program that would identify a person as being deaf on their driver's license or on a placard.

Deseret said she was having issues with the school district concerning her daughter's Individual Education Plan. She said she has spoken with other parents and they have the same frustration. She said the issue is the school does not want to provide an IEP for her daughter because her daughter is not behind in her courses although Deseret feels that if the IEP is discontinued, her daughter will begin to fall behind. Jean Taylor said there are many ways to deal with the school districts regarding IEP's including mediation. Jean said parents of students with disabilities have to be really persistent in their request on IEP's to school districts.

BY LAW REVISION:

Steven Snow said there are some changes in the Councils by-laws that should be discussed by the By-laws committee, voted on by the Executive committee and then brought to the full board membership for voting. Steven said the following issues should be reviewed by the committee:

- 1) 8.6% change from 10%.
- 2) Board membership to the Governor. People need to apply directly to the Governor's office.
- 3) Article 6, section 6 add ethical responsibilities to manual.
- 4) Chair or vice chair to be deaf or hard of hearing.
- 5) Meetings: make sure by-laws match Idaho Code.
- 6) Committees need to follow open meeting laws.

DEAF AWARENESS WEEK PRESENTATION:

Russ Patterson presented the award to Jerry Wilding on behalf of Hamilton Relay, as the Deaf Person of the Year. Russ said the criteria for nomination and selection include the deaf person's involvement in the community to insure the deaf and hard of hearing community is recognized, somebody who shows leadership, who is involved in the community and has been outstanding in the community as providing a better life for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Russ said Hamilton Relay had received some nominations and Jerry was the person chosen to receive the award.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Infant Toddler (Idaho Sound Beginnings): Cynthia Carlin updated the new members on the Early Detection and Intervention Program. She said the program has received more federal grant money and will be utilizing it to update the data base which tracks children identified with a hearing loss. Cynthia said some of the funds will be used for additional training for staff at hospitals throughout the state. Cynthia said the Infant Toddler Program received some stimulus money and will be upgrading hearing screening equipment at hospitals who apply for the funds. Cynthia said there have been 26 babies identified with a hearing loss this year compared to 19

identified last year. Cynthia said the Infant Toddler program has some funds to purchase new hearing aids for the lending library at IESDB.

Vocational Rehabilitation: Doug Clapp said he has a caseload of 116 people. He said he has placed 20 people in employment so far this year which started in October which compares to a total of 23 last year. He said he receives about 5 new cases a week. Doug said Vocational Rehabilitation is making the forms and paperwork that needs to be completed, more deaf friendly. He said instructions for completing all of the forms will be on the website in American Sign Language. Doug said Vocational Rehabilitation will be considering which forms to start the process and then continue until all the forms are on the website. Doug said this will be available through every VR office in the state. Doug said clients will be able to access the forms through the website, Facebook or Utube.

Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind: Aylee Schaefer, Interim Administrator at the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind was unable to attend the meeting; however, she gave information to Steven Snow who reported to the board. Steven Snow said the total number of students for the residential campus is 82 which consists of 10 in preschool, 22 in elementary and 50 in high school. He said the totals include deaf and hard of hearing and blind and visually impaired students. Steven said outreach students include 639 deaf or hard of hearing students and 434 blind visually impaired students for a total of 1,073 students in outreach programs throughout the state. Steven said enrollment in the residential program will increase in January by 5 to a total of 87.

Department of Education/Special Education: Jean Taylor said the Department of Education is currently considering how to make the Idaho Standard Achievement Test (ISAT) assessable to deaf or hard of hearing students. Jean said there is discussion on how to create a standardized video taped test using American Sign Language. She said this test is important not only for the placement and graduation requirements for students, but Adequate Yearly Progress for schools is measured using the ISAT testing

Commission on Aging: Deedra said website has been redesigned to be a statewide resource information center. Deedra said the Commission on Aging is actively working with other agencies to provide information about different services that are available.

Bureau of Occupational Licenses: Linda said the Bureau of Occupational Licenses has created new boards including midwives and occupational therapists. She said Gail Cheney was appointed to the Speech and Hearing Therapist Board. Linda said currently the Bureau of Occupational Licenses has issued licenses for 83 audiologists, 74 hearing aid dealers and fitters, and 496 speech language pathologists. Linda said there are many speech language pathologists relocating to Idaho especially from Utah and Arizona. Linda said the Bureau has been busy and she expects that it will remain so.

Old Business: Cindy said ten thousand dollars worth of new equipment will be purchased for the demonstration and loan centers that will match the equipment list for the subsidy program. She said the equipment will be ordered as soon as a check comes from Idaho Center for Assistive Technology through stimulus monies from Vocational Rehabilitation through the University of Idaho. She said contracts to the various demonstration and loan centers will be mailed next week to continue the centers for the next year. She said the Idaho Center for Assistive Technology will fund the subsidy program this year.

New Business: Steven Snow said the Council needed to elect an Executive Committee which would be responsible for decisions regarding last minute issues that need an immediate resolution, and give the Executive Director guidance concerning those issues. Russ motioned to open nominations for Executive Committee the motion was seconded by Deseret, the motioned passed. Deseret said she would not want to be nominated because her term on the board is finished in July. A motion was made to nominate Russ, Sue and Shannon to the Executive committee; the motioned was seconded and passed with results being Russ, Sue and Shannon being elected to the Executive Committee. Steven Stubbs will appoint a Bylaws committee at a later date.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for September 17, 2010 and December 3, 2010 with the location to be announced at a later date.